



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental News

DEQ HOSTS BROWNFIELDS PILOTS WORKSHOP

BATON ROUGE - The Department of Environment Quality will partner with the University of New Orleans Center for Brownfield Initiative (CBI) along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to host the second annual Louisiana Brownfields Pilots Workshop, May 6-7 in Metairie. The workshop provides information to assist governmental agencies participating in DEQ's and EPA's Brownfields initiative.

Brownfields are defined as real property, abandoned, idled, or underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion, redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the actual, perceived or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. Since inception in 1995, EPA's Brownfields initiative has grown into a proven, results-oriented program that has changed the way contaminated property is perceived, addressed and managed.

Ten governmental agencies participate in the pilots program and receive funds from EPA Region 6. Their common goal is to return brownfields properties back into productive use. Those pilots include Baton Rouge, Gretna, Jefferson Parish, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport, South Central Planning and Development Commission, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, West Monroe and Westwego. Two nonprofits, HOPE Community Development Corporation and Pelican Nest Learning & Resource Center also participate in the program.

"The workshop will feature interactive discussions, educational presentations and networking opportunities affording pilots the forum to gain insightful information and strategies," Dr. James Brent, DEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment, said. We are all seeking enterprising methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental clean-up and redevelopment." DEQ is actively promoting remediation initiatives that serve to cleanup the environment and revitalize abandoned properties.

Additional brownfields information can found at DEQ's website www.ldeq.org/brownfields or by contacting Roger Gingles, DEQ brownfields coordinator at 225-219-3192.